REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fogelberg.

Fogelberg discloses an anti-rattle system including first and second parts, with one of the parts includes a pair of deformable pressure discs. The other part includes a friction disc with an outer periphery positioned between the parallel flat surfaces of the pair of discs so that they are spread apart by the friction disc. The friction contact is realized by means of a third disk that runs between two other discs.

Amended claim 1 recites a gear drive mechanism with an anti-rattle device and includes a first friction disc having a first friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the first gear and has a first frusto-conical shape, and a second friction disc having a second friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the second gear and has a second frusto-conical shape. The first friction rim surface and the second friction rim surface are in mutual contact with each other and thereby enabled to transmit a friction-based torque between each other. One of the first and second friction rim surfaces is elastically biased against the other friction rim surface which permits the one disc to adapt itself elastically to the shape of the neighboring disk.

The present application discloses friction wheels 12, 14 that are annular shaped and as recited in amended claim 1, the contact between the first and second rim surfaces is characterized as being one of a circumferential contact with each other and thereby enabled to transmit a friction-based torque between each other.

In the Fogelberg reference, the friction contact is realized by means of a third disk that runs between two other discs as shown in Fig. 1 of the reference. Thus, the friction contact in Fogelberg is not one of a circumferential nature as is the case in the present application since the friction contact is achieved by placing the third disk between two other discs. This is not

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circumferential contact but instead is one where an element is sandwiched between two other elements.

In contrast, the first and second rim surfaces of the present invention, and as set forth in the claims, are in circumferential contact with one another. This is something much different than the contact that is disclosed and illustrated in the Fogelberg reference due to the lack of circumferential contact between the two surfaces in the Fogelberg reference.

Since this feature of amended claim 1 is clearly not disclosed in the Fogelberg reference and in fact is not even suggested by the cited reference, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 1 are respectfully requested at this time.

Claims 2, 3, and 5-10 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fogelberg.

These claims should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 1, as amended.

Claim 12 has been amended in the same manner as claim 1 in that amended claim 12 recites that the contact between the first and second friction rim surfaces is of a circumferential nature.

Applicant respectfully contends that the above features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references since the references lack the circumferential contact between two rim friction surfaces disclosed in the claim.

        In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

        Should the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine that any other fee(s) is due or that any refund is owed for this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge the required fee(s) and/or credit the refund(s) owed to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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